

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 287530 TOSEC 310018

15
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 287530 TOSEC 310018

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 9307 ACTION SECSTATE INFO LUSAKA
GABORONE NOV 22.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 9307

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR RH UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIAN FACTIONAL VIOLENCE

FROM WISNER

1. A MEMBER OF JOSHUA NKOMO'S DELEGATION COMMENTED
ON NOVEMBER 20 ON THE RECENT INCIDENTS IN SALISBURY
AND FRANCISTOWN.

2. WITH RESPECT TO CLASHES BETWEEN NKOMO'S AND MUZOREWA'S
SUPPORTERS IN SALISBURY, NKOMO'S COLLEAGUE TOLD US THAT
THE FIGHTING WHICH TOOK PLACE LAST WEEK WAS NOT
UNUSUAL AND RESULTED FROM LITTLE MORE THAN BARROOM
SQUABBLES. SIMILAR OUTBREAKS OCCURRED REGULARLY AND HAD
NO SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE.

3. THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ZAPU OFFICE IN FRANCISTOWN
WAS DIFFERENT. SOME WEEKS AGO, A BLACK POLICE OFFICER
DEFECTED TO NKOMO'S SIDE IN BOTSWANA AND WARNED NKOMO'S
LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE RHODESIAN POLICE
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WERE PLANNING AN INCIDENT AGAINST THE ZAPU OFFICE.

BOTSWANAN AUTHORITIES POSTED POLICE BUT WHEN NOTHING
OCCURRED, WITHDREW THE POLICE PROTECTION. JUST
BEFORE THE EXPLOSION WHICH DEMOLISHED THE ZAPU
OFFICE, MEMBERS OF NKOMO'S LOCAL DELEGATION SAW "TWO
WHITES AND ONE AFRICAN" FLEEING THE SCENE. THE ZAPU
CADRE NOTIFIED THE POLICE AND TOOK SHELTER. THE
EXPLOSION DEMOLISHED THEIR OFFICE. CATTO
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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NNN

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